

Lynx canadensis* (Canada Lynx)*Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)****Class:** *Mammalia* (Mammals)**Order:** *Carnivora* (Carnivores)**Family:** *Felidae* (Cats)**General comments:**

Although Canada lynx are federally listed as threatened, they are not listed under Maine ESA since lynx exceed Maine's listing criteria (> 500 individuals and 250 breeding individuals, population has increased in last 10 years, are not limited to a few locales, and are not endemic to Maine). However, their federal status as Threatened warrants the determination of a species of Special Concern. In 2006, we estimated at least 700-1,000 adult lynx occupied northern and western Maine based on estimates of available habitat and data from systematic track surveys and a 12-year telemetry study. In 2015, we began a second 3-year survey effort to detect changes in lynx occupancy and to derive updated population estimates/trends. Initial survey results indicate that lynx are found in more areas than during a previous survey effort (2003-2008 ecoregional lynx surveys). Additional data will be collected during the winters of 2016 and 2017 to generate updated population estimates. No actionable and severe stressors are currently associated with lynx. However, the structure and amount of spruce/fir forest and forest management practices can affect prey abundance and habitat suitability for lynx. Lynx are associated with northern boreal forest that support long periods of deep snow and adequate prey densities. Disturbance(e.g., fire, logging) is important to maintaining habitat conditions for lynx and snowshoe hare. Although predation and parasite loads were leading sources of mortality for lynx in Maine they do not appear to limit lynx numbers (recruitment exceeded mortality). Roads, and to a lesser extent incidental take, account for a very small percentage of annual mortality.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Canada Lynx:Town Map: [Lynx canadensis Towns.pdf](#)Subwatershed Map: [Lynx canadensis_HUC12.pdf](#)**SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:****Risk of Extirpation:**Federal Status: **Threatened****State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:***Lynx canadensis* is listed as a species of Special Concern in Maine.**Recent Significant Declines: NA****Regional Endemic: NA****High Regional Conservation Priority: NA****High Climate Change Vulnerability:**

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: High, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)

Understudied rare taxa: NA**Historical: NA****Culturally Significant: NA****Habitats Assigned to Canada Lynx:****Formation Name** **Boreal Upland Forest****Macrogroup Name** **Boreal Upland Forest****Habitat System Name:** Acadian Low Elevation Spruce-Fir-Hardwood Forest **Notes:** optimal habitat: midsuccessional or understory spruce/fir**Habitat System Name:** Acadian Sub-boreal Spruce Flat **Notes:** optimal habitat: midsuccessional or understory spruce/fir**Habitat System Name:** Acadian-Appalachian Montane Spr-Fir-Hwd Forest **Notes:** optimal habitat: midsuccessional or understory spruce/fir

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This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.